

STREET SMART

October 1, 2003

Governments
SANBAG
Working Together

Meeting Summary of the SANBAG Board of Directors

San Bernardino Associated Governments ■ 472 N. Arrowhead Avenue, San Bernardino, CA 92401 ■ (909) 884-8276
www.sanbag.ca.gov

■ SANBAG awards construction contract for I-10 truck lane

Construction will start next month on a truck-climbing lane on Interstate 10 between Redlands and Yucaipa, following the award of a \$19.9 million contract to Brutoco Engineering and Construction, Inc. The SANBAG Board chose the Fontana-based firm as the lowest responsible bidder.



Funded in part by Measure I, the project marks the first phase of freeway improvements planned for the eastern San Bernardino valley. Construction is expected to last 11 months.

The truck-climbing lane will extend eastward for 3.7 miles from Ford Street in Redlands to Live Oak Canyon Road in Yucaipa. The new lane, as well as an auxiliary lane that will stretch as far as Yucaipa Boulevard, will help move drivers more efficiently on this uphill grade.

Work will include building sound walls along Hampton and Reservoir roads, widening the freeway to accommodate the new lanes and resurfacing the existing freeway lanes. The resurfacing will occur at night.

Once this project is completed, work will begin on the second phase of east-end congestion relief -- the widening of a 2.5-mile section of Interstate 10 between Orange and Ford streets in Redlands. This project also will be funded by Measure I.

■ Reitz saluted as “true SANBAGger” for 25 years of service

Board and staff members bid farewell to SANBAG Counsel Ron Reitz, who was appointed San Bernardino County Counsel last month. Reitz will oversee 47 attorneys in his new role and will no longer assist SANBAG with legal issues on a daily basis. He has served SANBAG for 25 years.



Deputy County Counsel Jean-Rene Basle will be SANBAG's new legal adviser. He is experienced in construction law and clearly has the stamina for SANBAG legal issues, as a former Olympic ice skating alternate.

Board President Bill Alexander, left, and Executive Director Norm King, right, thank Ron Reitz for his service to SANBAG.

■ Board OKs effort to designate Highway 395 a “safety corridor”

Recognizing the need for safety improvements on U.S. Highway 395, Board members unanimously endorsed an effort to seek federal grant funding through the “Safety Corridor Program.”

The area of the highway between Interstate 15 and State Route 58 has had a large number of fatal accidents during the past decade. The high traffic volume, narrow roadway and shallow dips contribute to the problem, as well as risky maneuvers by drivers.

Caltrans has planned several short-term efforts to improve safety, and a large scale realignment and widening of the highway may be undertaken in 10 to 12 years, if funding can be secured.

As a more immediate remedy, a citizens committee, the Highway 395 Safety Corridor Project Task Force, is working with the CHP to submit a grant application to name the highway a safety corridor. If approved, the grant funds could be used for increased highway patrols, higher fines for traffic infractions, roadway signs, public information programs and daytime headlight zones.

Down the Road ...

- Oct. 8: Administrative Committee, 9 a.m.; Commuter Rail Committee, 12 noon
- Oct. 9: Major Projects Committee, 9 a.m.
- Oct. 15: Plans & Programs Committee, 12 noon
- Oct. 17: Mountain-Desert Committee, 9 a.m.
- Oct. 27: Ground-breaking, I-10 truck lane, 3 p.m.

Avoid the congestion jungle! Celebrate Rideshare Week, Oct. 6-10

SANBAG also salutes ridesharing business partners September 25

Businesses that encourage employees to carpool, vanpool, take the train, ride the bus, cycle or walk to work were named top bananas September 25 at San Bernardino Associated Governments ninth annual Rideshare Employer Partnership Awards Ceremony in Redlands.

SANBAG officials, joined by KTLA-TV traffic reporter Jennifer York, presented trophies to representatives of 18 businesses for their work in convincing fellow employees to share rides during the past year. Company barbecues, five-minute

chair massages, raffle prizes and other forms of motivation were used to support ridesharing, which helps reduce traffic congestion and pollution.

The jungle-themed event included references to avoiding the monkey business of congestion and how traffic drives San Bernardino County commuters bananas.

Chimpanzee mascots Sharon A. Ride and Scooter Commuter congratulated the employees for their work

to cut through the "congestion jungle."

SANBAG allocates funding from Measure I, its half-cent sales tax for transportation, for ridesharing incentives. This month's issue of *Measuring Success* takes a look at the benefits of sharing rides.

Ridesharing Benefits and Participation

SANBAG works with 185 businesses that represent a total of 300 work sites in San Bernardino County through its Commuter Assistance Program. Employees at participating businesses can register for Option Rideshare, which provides \$2 per day in gift certificates for the first three months of participation, or Team Ride, which provides discounts and other rewards for those who have been sharing rides for at least three months.

"Whenever you carpool, vanpool, ride the bus, take the train or use alternate ways to get to work, you are doing more than just improving traffic congestion. You are helping to reduce pollution, which makes our world a better place to live," said Michelle Kirkhoff, SANBAG's director of air quality and mobility programs.

In San Bernardino County, 26.3 percent of residents share rides, with the majority — 17.5 percent — taking part in carpools, according to the 2000 Census counts.

California Rideshare Week

The awards ceremony also gave SANBAG staff a chance to promote Rideshare Week, October 6-10. Employees who register to share rides or use alternate commuting methods at least one day that week are eligible to win nearly 70 prizes, including gift certificates for groceries or home improvement

items, a bingo party at San Manuel Indian Resort, passes to Disneyland or getaways to Santa Barbara, Oceanside, San Diego, San Luis Obispo, Ventura, Rancho Mirage, Laughlin or Las Vegas.

The top award presented at the ceremony was the Rideshare Ambassador Award, which recognizes an individual for an extraordinary commitment to ridesharing programs. Teri Baker, senior administrative analyst for the City of San Bernardino, received the award for her efforts to establish the Rideshare to Rails program, which offers incentives to commuters who carpool to Metrolink stations in San Bernardino and Rialto.

Additional award winners included:

- Ken Pierce, County of San Bernardino
- Peggy Bazemore, Loma Linda University Medical Center
- Franschell Williams and Lourdes McDonald, California State University, San Bernardino
- Brenda Ray, Patton State Hospital
- Debra Wessels, Sears Regional Credit Card Center, Rancho Cucamonga
- Joann Masip, Loma Linda University
- Peggy McVey, City of Redlands
- Michelle Gall, Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Facility, Chino
- Priscilla Cagle and Haide Lopez, University of Redlands
- Julie Frazier-Mathews, City of Rialto
- Ruth Lenihan, Cardinal Health, Ontario
- Shelly Anthony, Sears, Montclair
- Greg Sawka and Ted Meinke, La-Z-Boy West, Redlands
- Amber Guerrero, Wal-Mart, Chino
- Linda Verhoeven, Highland Supply Corporation, Highland
- Elizabeth Jonas, Superior Court of California, San Bernardino
- Donna James, U.S. Data Source, Rancho Cucamonga

